

## 1. WHAT WAS YOUR MILITARY BRANCH AND HOW MANY YEARS DID YOU SERVE?

I served in the Army for 24 years.

## 2. WHAT LED YOU TO A CAREER WITH THE MILITARY?

I joined the Army with a friend a couple of years after college and I only wanted to serve for four years. The four years went by and I really enjoyed what I was doing, so I decided to stay in service. The rest is history!

## 3. HOW DOES YOUR CURRENT POSITION IMPACT THE SOLDIER?

At Computer Hardware, Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHESS), I serve as the Operations Officer/Product Leader for mobility services; providing cutting edge mobile WI-FI devices to our units and soldiers. I am currently on assignment at PD Enterprise Services, providing an automated tasking solution to solve the Army's problem of managing and responding to correspondence and tasks across large and complex organizations.

## 4. WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE ACTIVE DUTY STATION AND WHY?

My favorite active duty station would have to be Fort McPherson, Ga when I was stationed with The Third United States Army. There is a sense of pride and esprit de corps that comes with being a member of the famous GEN George S. Patton's Third Army!

## 5. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE STORY OF YOUR MILITARY CAREER?

One of my favorite stories took place in Northern Iraq during first Gulf War. Our Aviation Task Force was assigned to Operation Provide Comfort, delivering humanitarian aid to the Kurds, who were fleeing their homes. While flying as an observer in a Blackhawk, I noticed one of the Chinooks attempting to land but was unsuccessful due to the crowds of people below. The Task Force commander ordered the Chinook to off load while hovering. The aircraft hovered about 10 feet and crew began dropping rations from the loading ramp. As the last rations were off loaded, someone in the crowd tossed something onto the loading ramp. A crew member caught it, and we later learned it was a very young malnourished infant. The infant was transported back to base and brought to the medical facility where she was treated for malnutrition. I am uncertain if the infant was ever reunited with her family.

## 6. WHAT DOES BEING A VETERAN MEAN TO YOU?

Being a veteran means a great deal to me; having sworn an oath to give the ultimate sacrifice for our Great Nation and knowing that some of my fellow comrades did just that. I am honored to be called a veteran and continuing to serve as a citizen soldier.

# VETERANS IN THE PEO EIS WORKFORCE SPOTLIGHT

## Mr. Garnard W. Burnside II

**TITLE:** Operations Officer/Product Leader PD ES/PL CHESS

**HOW LONG AT PEO EIS:** Almost four years

**AWARDS / EDUCATION / OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS TO NOTE:** Legion of Merit (1), Bronze Star (1), Meritorious Service Medal (2), Army Commendation Medal (3), Army Achievement Medal (4), National Defense Service Medal (1), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (1), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (1), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal (1), Southwest Asia Service Medal (1), Armed Forces Service Medal (1), Superior Civilian Service Award (1), Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award (1), Commanders Award for Civilian Service (1), Master of Science Aviation Aerospace Safety/Operations, Program Management Level II Certificate, and Member of the Army's Acquisition Corps

